

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NRC-05 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 DOE-15 H-01 INR-10 INT-05
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 ICA-11 OES-07
SP-02 SS-15 STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 IO-13 /145 W
-----045952 210431Z /11

R 182235Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9330

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ENRG, EG
SUBJ: NUCLEAR COOPERATION AGREEMENT

1. DURING CALL AT MFA MAY 16, EMBOFF WAS SUMMONED BY
LEGAL AFFAIRS DIRECTOR ELARABY, WHO REQUESTED STATUS
REPORT ON NUCLEAR COOPERATION AGREEMENT. ELARABY SAID
FOREIGN MINISTER KAMAL HAD ASKED FOR INFORMATION IN
CONNECTION WITH HIS UPCOMING VISIT TO SPECIAL UNGA ON
DISARMAMENT. EMBOFF REVIEWED CURRENT STATE OF PLAY, AND
NOTED THAT RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES ARE HARD AT WORK IDENTIFY-
ING AREAS THAT NEED TO BE ADDED OR AMENDED IN ORDER TO
CONFORM TO NEW LEGISLATION. ONCE THAT PROCESS COMPLETE
WE WILL PRESENT NEW LANGUAGE TO GOE FOR ITS CONSIDERATION.
ELARABY SAID MFA WOULD DEFINITELY HAVE TO CLEAR ON ANY NEW
LANGUAGE.

2. ELARABY THEN ASKED ABOUT STRATEGY FOR SUBMISSION OF
EGYPTIAN AGREEMENT TO CONGRESS. HE HAD BEEN TOLD BY
MAHER ABAZA, UNDERSECRETARY MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY, HE
SAID, THAT AGREEMENT COULD BE SUBMITTED "AS SOON AS
AIRCRAFT PACKAGE HAD CLEARED CONGRESS." EMBOFF OBSERVED
THAT PROCESS IS NOT THAT SIMPLE. FIRST EGYPT MUST APPROVE
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ADDITIONAL OR CHANGED LANGUAGE IN AGREEMENT. DECISION MUS
THEN BE MADE ABOUT SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS. ELARABY AWARE
THAT LINK PREVIOUSLY MADE BETWEEN EGYPTIAN AND ISRAELI
AGREEMENTS AND ASKED WHAT ADMINISTRATION PLANNED DO NOW
THAT AGREEMENTS WOULD HAVE TO CONFORM TO MORE STRICT
LEGISLATION. SPECIFICALLY ELARABY SAID HE THOUGHT ISRAEL
WOULD FIND IT IMPOSSIBLE TO AGREE TO ANY NEW LANGUAGE IF

IT CONTAINED COVERAGE FOR EXISTING FACILITIES (I.E., DIMONA). EMBOFF REPLIED THAT THESE POINTS HAD NOT YET BEEN DISCUSSED AND WOULD HAVE TO AWAIT DECISION ON NEW LANGUAGE NEEDED. ELARABY SAID THAT THIS IS ONE OF TOPICS HE WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS WITH LEGAL ADVISOR'S OFFICE WHEN HE VISITS U.S. NEXT FEW WEEKS (PRIMARILY TO ATTEND SPECIAL UNGA). HE LEFT OPEN QUESTION OF WHETHER FOREIGN MINISTER HIMSELF MIGHT RAISE QUESTION.

3. COMMENT: DURING NEGOTIATIONS IN 1976 FOREIGN MINISTRY WAS KEPT MORE OR LESS ON SIDELINES UNTIL VERY END BY GOE NEGOTIATORS DEPRIMIN AND MINELECTRICITY SULTAN AND (THEN) MINSCIENTIFIC RESEARCH GUEBEILY. AMBASSADOR PROVIDED FOREIGN MINISTER FAHMY WITH VARIOUS DRAFTS BUT I WAS NOT UNTIL FINAL DAYS OF NEGOTIATIONS THAT MFA STARTED TO SHOW INTEREST IN AGREEMENT. WE HAVE LEARNED SINCE THAT LANGUAGE OF FINAL AGREEMENT. THIS IS FIRST REQUEST WE HAVE HAD FROM MFA ON NUCLEAR COOPERATION AGREEMENT AND IT MAY INDICATE MINISTRY INTENDS TO BE MORE INVOLVED SLOW DOWN PROCESS OF GAINING GOE AGREEMENT TO REVISED LANGUAGE. MATTHEWS

NOTE BY OC/T: MESSAGE DELAYED IN TRANSMISSION.

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